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# WAR ACTIVITIES

IN

MINNEAPOLIS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

639  
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BOARD OF EDUCATION,  
FEBRUARY, 1918

## Facts About Minneapolis

Population .....	385,000
Number of public high schools.....	6
Number of public elementary schools	76
Enrolment in high schools.....	9,034
Enrolment in elementary schools.....	46,097
Total enrolment .....	55,131
Number of teachers in high schools	382
Number of teachers in elementary schools .....	1,256
Number of principals and supervisors	89
Total number in school force.....	1,727

## Minneapolis Public Schools and the War Since January 1, 1917

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Junior Red Cross Auxiliaries  
 Red Cross Membership Drive  
 Red Cross Salvage Campaign  
 Direct Gifts to Soldiers, Sailors and Nurses  
 Liberty Loans  
 Thrift Stamps and War Savings Certificates  
 Food Conservation  
 Fuel Conservation  
 War Gardens  
 Farm Labor Enlistment  
 Belgian Relief  
 Y. M. C. A. Campaign  
 Courses for Draft Registrants  
 Adoption of War Orphans  
 Knitting Clubs  
 Service Flags  
 Contract Work of Girls' Vocational High School  
 Teachers' Direct Contribution

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E4M5 Junior Auxiliaries  
Minneapolis Chapter American Red Cross

### Pledge

I pledge allegiance to my Flag and to the Republic for which it stands: One Nation, one Language, one Flag, with Liberty and Justice for all.

I pledge all the service within my power to the School Auxiliary of the American Red Cross.

Organization—\$2 a room and service.

Goal—25 cents a pupil.

Every pupil a member, January 7, 1918.

Amount of money contributed to date toward membership dues—\$5,026.16.

### Articles Finished to Date

	High Schools	Elementary		High Schools	Elementary
Abdominal Bands		58	Layettes	3	
Afghans (Blankets)	30	88	Leggins	60	272
Anti-vermin Suits	36		Mitts (Child's)	447	
Bandages	1391	540	Mitt (Lining)	127	
Bath Robes	125	36	Napkins	24	12
Bed Sheets	216	156	Needle Books		2500
Bed Shirts	666	121	Night Slips	58	
Bed Socks	451	1225	Operating Towels	108	81
Bonnets	186	16	Operating Sheets	72	368
Books	5	9	Pajamas	181	338
Booties	9	92	Paper Dolls	28	988
Bottle Covers		1310	Pillows	37	72
Caps (Child's)	57	12	Pillow Cases		78
Caps (Opt'g)	241	516	Puzzle Pictures	38	131
Caps, Trench	15	33	Scarfs	24	2
Dominoes	2	1	Scrap Books	4	172
Draw Sheets	12	48	Shoulder Wraps	169	287
Dresses (Children's)	69	22	Shoulder Caps	40	
Dusters		464	Slings	22	450
Gown, (Opt'g)		25	Socks	46	58
Gun Wipes		7772	Stretcher, Stocking		38
Handkerchiefs	100		Sweaters (Child's)	26	
Helmets	36	9	Sweaters (Knit)	269	152
Hospital Socks	72		Sweaters (Finish)	800	
Housewives		947	Towels	77	1595
Ice Bag Covers		189	Underwear	75	
Jackets	35	6	Wash Cloths	40	55
Joke Cards		20	Wristers	133	51
Kit Bags	3382	1193			
Knitting Needles		1022			
			Total.....	10,044	23,630
					33,674

Drawing, sewing, manual training and cooking classes are working on a variety of articles for a big sale in March. Proceeds will help to swell the Junior Red Cross membership fund.

## **Red Cross Membership Drive**

The number of members among teachers and other employees is 1,900. The total amount raised was \$2,218.

## **Red Cross Salvage Campaign**

This campaign was encouraged as an after-school and Saturday occupation for the children. It has amounted to raising about \$2,000 a month for the Red Cross. Boy Scouts have been particularly active in this work.

## **Direct Gifts to Soldiers, Sailors and Nurses**

Hundreds of knitted articles, candy boxes, food boxes and Christmas boxes; scrap books, portfolios, magazines and smileage books; rugs, fountain pens, field glasses, wrist watches and Victrolas; \$830, and even a war ambulance, have been contributed by pupils and teachers, to be sent to persons in service known to donors.

## **Liberty Loans**

In the first and second Liberty Loan campaigns, Minneapolis public schools were credited with a total of \$743,000 in subscriptions. This total represented offerings of pupils, teachers and other employees, and patrons who made their subscriptions through the schools. It is believed every child has an individual share in a Liberty bond. Seventy-eight schools have ownership in whole or part in one or more bonds each, held by the Board of Education. Bonds to the amount of \$1,500 were left as class memorials.

## **Thrift Stamps and War Savings Certificates**

The average weekly investment in thrift and war savings stamps has been about \$3,000. School savings of children have been invested for many

years through a local savings bank. This bank has continued its clerical service to the schools in war stamp investments.

## **Food Conservation**

Food pledge cards were distributed through the schools and signed pledges returned from more than 20,000 families. The schools are virtually the distributing force for the food administration. Canning centers were opened in various schools last summer and lessons given to mothers in canning. These lessons have been continued through the 1917-18 school year. The regular course of study in cookery has been changed to conform with food administration regulations. War breads and substitutes for meats, fats and sugar are special features.

## **Fuel Conservation**

Boys and girls as government agents were active on "Tag the shovel" day.

## **War Gardens**

Two thousand three hundred children of the 4,000 enlisted in garden work last summer under school supervision had productive gardens. The estimated value of the products of their gardens was \$49,262. Three public markets were opened for the sale of these products. Patriotic citizens gave more than \$1,000 in prizes. In behalf of the schools, janitors cultivated vacant land in school and park property. They produced 1,300 bushels of potatoes, 582 bushels of squash and 99 of carrots. This produce is being used in "penny lunches," lunches in fresh air rooms, and so on.

## **Farm Labor Enlistments**

One hundred thirty-two boys in upper grades and high schools were excused from school work last spring to take places on farms in the state. Credit in school was given for such work. The plan, enlarged, will be observed this spring.

## **Belgian Relief**

For relief of children in Belgium a fund of \$4,030.94 was raised by a collection in the schools.



## **Y. M. C. A. Campaign**

A fund of \$12,350 was raised in the schools for the war work of the Y M. C. A.

### **Courses for Draft Registrants**

Evening courses have been opened for instruction of drafted men expecting soon to be inducted into the national army. Teacher volunteers assisted in a survey of the educational status and needs of Minneapolis registrants, using questionnaires filed with local draft boards. Many of these boards have used the schools for clerical offices and physical examination headquarters.

Day and evening schools for Americanization work have been conducted for men and women.

### **Adoption of War Orphans**

Thirty-five war orphans have been adopted by Minneapolis schools.

### **Knitting Clubs**

School social groups have been turned into knitting clubs. While knitting, they sing patriotic songs and tell patriotic stories.

### **Service Flags**

All the schools have service flags. Those of the high schools have 1,431 stars.

### **Contract Work of Girls' Vocational High School**

The Girls' Vocational High School has a government contract for making army shirts. It is doing hundreds of dollars' worth of work for the Red Cross in its cutting department. It is estimated that this cutting is saving the Red Cross \$7,000 a month.

### **Teachers' Direct Contribution**

Teachers give evenings and Saturdays to knitting and surgical dressing classes. Many have qualified as teachers in surgical dressing work.



## *k in the Schools*

(The Minneapolis Tribune)

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have long known that the way to overcome untoward disposition is to ask him to do a favor. To that extent the humanizing power of service has been recognized as an ally in teaching. Today that principle, better understood and expanded in application, is transforming the Minneapolis schools. Every parent with children in the schools senses that in the awakened spirit of those children. Patriotism has seized them. It possesses them. It colors their days, and doubtless their nights—for who will say they do not dream it? It finds expression in service.

Minneapolis should realize that its 82 public schools with 55,000 children have become centers of "doing things" for others. Boys and girls knit, sew, cut, paste, draw, paint, whittle, as never before. They have a purpose. They do these things for the soldiers and sailors of their country, for the soldiers and sailors of their country's war associates. They do them for others. As they knit, they sing the songs that make the pulses of Americans leap and their nerves thrill.

The strain has all but gone from the schools. Teacher's face is not merely placid; it is alight with purpose. Pupils' voices are lower, more even, while their eyes are eager. The war has done what school folk have racked their brains to know how to do. It has "motivated" school work. Junior Red Cross activities, Liberty Loans, food and fuel saving, have done it.

Teachers report that regular school work has not suffered because of what the children are doing in America's fight—doing with cheer and self-forgetfulness and determination. Arithmetic, language, geography—the whole gamut of subjects—are at least as well done as before, better done in most cases. Children have something to figure for, to tell about. Mid-year promotions last month were as general as in normal times.

Pupils are not the only ones affected by the new conditions. Teachers are learning how to teach as neither normal school nor experience has ever before been able to show them.

## Earning For the

By being ash man, snow ter and "chambermaid", Jack years old, of the Clara Barton school, lis, earned \$3.75 for the Red Cross. books on himself and has it all itemized.

He carried out ten baskets of ashes for 5 cents a basket. He shoveled walks at home and in his neighborhood, getting 50 cents each for the "biggest" ones and 35 cents for just ordinary walks. He made \$1.75 in that way.

He had a shack which had to be torn down. His father gave him \$1 for the wood and a quarter for splitting it.

Jack worked in the house, too. "I cleaned the bathroom up and made the beds every morning for two weeks," he told at school. That netted 25 cents.

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## Banking With Uncle Sam

Everett Allen of the Schiller school, Minneapolis, who is 12 years old and has an eye for business, is earning money to invest in a war savings certificate. His father is a meat dealer. Everett is working for him—on commission. He has rounded up nine new customers, one a boarding house. This house runs its meat bill up to \$40 or \$50 a month. Everett gets a 5 per cent commission. He earned \$2.50 in the Christmas vacation. He has a war savings certificate and is saving his earnings for stamps.

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